

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181302

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ORIGIN LAB-04

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DRAFTED BY LABOR:IPA:GPHOLMES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 181302

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, BE, FR, UK

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
ON COAL MINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ATTN: LABOR ATTACHES

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS
ADMINISTRATION (ESA) IS INTERESTED IN COMPARING THE U.S.
COAL MINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM WITH THOSE OF
SELECTED OTHER COUNTRIES AS A MEANS OF JUDGING PROGRAM
EFFECTIVENESS. IN EXAMINING FOREIGN PROGRAMS FOR
COMPENSATING COAL WORKERS FOR DISABILITY DUE TO
PNEUMOCONIOSIS, ESA IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH HOW
EFFECTIVE THE FOREIGN PROGRAMS ARE IN MEETING THEIR
OBJECTIVES. IN THIS CONTEXT, ESA WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SECURING ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING
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PAGE 02 STATE 181302

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE

COUNTRIES:

A. HOW MANY COAL MINERS ARE THERE IN YOUR COUNTRY
AND HOW MANY OF THEM ARE CURRENTLY BEING COMPENSATED?

B. HOW MANY COAL MINERS WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING
OF THE PROGRAM AND HOW MANY MINERS WERE COMPENSATED THEN?

C. ASSUMING A CLAIM IS APPROVED, HOW LONG DOES IT
TAKE FOR A CLAIM TO BE PROCESSED?

D. ON WHAT BASIS IS A COAL MINER COMPENSATED?
WHAT ARE THE MEDICAL STANDARDS? IS THE AWARD MADE FOR
PARTIAL DISABILITY OR FOR TOTAL DISABILITY ONLY?
HOW IS DISABILITY DEFINED UNDER THE PROGRAM?

E. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM
IN ANY GIVEN YEAR? HOW MUCH WAS PAID OUT IN BENEFITS
FOR THE SAME YEAR?

F. HOW MANY CLAIMS ARE FILED EACH YEAR AND HOW MANY
ARE DETERMINED IN FAVOR OF THE APPLICANT?

G. WHAT WAS THE RATIO OF CLAIMS FILED TO CLAIMS
AWARDED AT THE START OF THE PROGRAM? WHAT IS THE
PRESENT RATIO?

H. HAVE ANY MEANS OF JUDGING THE PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVE-
NESS BEEN DEVELOPED?

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR APPRECIATES THE DIFFICULTY
OF OBTAINING INFORMATION DURING THE VACATION PERIOD,
BUT WOULD APPRECIATE SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AT
LEAST BY AUGUST 16. ROBINSON

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